

GREAT BRITAIN ON TOP.

Diplomatic Importance of the Conquest of the Soudan.

It Assures the Annexation of Egypt to England When the Turkish Spoils Shall Be Ready for Distribution—Spain's Sorry Plight.

(Special Letter.)

While the rest of Europe has been cowering its aching head about the Turkish problem, Great Britain has been doing much active work to insure its hold on Egypt and Zanzibar. Some weeks ago the American papers polled considerable fun at England for bombarding the rotting palace of the would-be sultan of Zanzibar, and journals published in the capitals of continental Europe went so far as to lampoon the incident as puerile and undignified. To-day they probably know better. Zanzibar is not only the most fertile state on the coast of East Africa, but its possession is absolutely necessary to the expansion and safe conduct of British trade in the equatorial regions of the dark continent. All the hides, rubber and grain produced in the well-settled provinces of eastern Africa and all the imports from Europe and America must perforce pass through Zanzibar to reach a market and consumers. Up to 1890 the sultanate was under the protection of the German empire. In that year Emperor William ceded his rights to Great Britain, receiving in return, absolutely and without qualification, the island of Heligoland, one of the most valuable and important fortified points in European waters. This trade in itself proves conclusively that England's East African interests seemed to demand, as early as 1890, absolute control over Zanzibar; and when the old sultan died and a pretender, inimical to Great Britain (although entitled to the throne), sought to establish his claims, British ships bombarded his palace and British soldiers took possession of the capital city. Absolute peace prevails now throughout the country, but English troops still guard the harbors and English officials administer the affairs of the nation. To all intents and purposes the country has become a British province, and formal annexation will be announced as soon as the opportunity may seem favorable.

The Conquest of the Soudan.

Even more important than the annexation of Zanzibar is the capture of Dongola, on the Nile. When, last March, Great Britain ordered Gen. H. H. Kitch-

possibilities and resources as to baffle description. And this grand domain will have been conquered at the expense of foreign powers and with the loss of but few English lives.

Uncle Sam in High Favor.

While Great Britain is thus scheming to get the upper hand of its European rivals, it pats Uncle Sam on the back and announces that nothing stands in the way of a final settlement of the Venezuela dispute and the consummation of an arbitration treaty. Salisbury wishes to gain the moral support of the United States and will leave nothing undone to bind the two great English-speaking nations closely together. The English press follows his lead and now finds ample justification



DON CARLOS, DUKE OF MADRID.

for American sympathy with the Cuban insurgents, thus virtually taking back some of its utterances. The London Times goes so far as to say that "Spain is incapable apparently of such resolute and continuous effort as is needed to reconquer the island." As late as May the same journal chided Americans for advocating the recognition of the patriot government, and now it speaks calmly and deliberately of a "reconquest" by Spain, thereby admitting that the island is actually in possession of the revolutionists.

Decadence of Spanish Power.

The old saying that when a man is down every dog will jump on him is verified in the case of poor old Spain. After pouring millions of money and thousands of its best troops into Cuba, it finds the island drifting completely away from its control. At the same time the patriots of the Philippine islands are winning victories over the vast army of 81,000 men maintained to keep them in subjection. And on top of

WEALTHY ENGLISH ACTORS.

Many Have Made the Bulk of Their Fortunes in America.

The richest living actor is Mr. Bancroft, and the beginning of his fortune, which is said to be nearly \$1,500,000, was made at a little theater in Tottenham court road, known in its day as the Queen's. Mr. Bancroft received \$30,000 per annum from Beerbohm Tree in the form of rent for the Haymarket theater, which he purchased some 15 years ago.

Sir Henry Irving gives away thousands of dollars every year to less fortunate brothers and sisters on the stage. Unfortunate actors have not a better or more willing friend, Wilson Barrett perhaps excepted, than the "Knight of the Stage." Were it not for this fact, Sir Henry would probably be very rich. His productions, even costing, as they frequently do, as much as \$100,000 to stage, have scarcely ever proved financial failures, while his tours in this country, where he is most popular, have brought him enormous sums of clear profit. His first two tours in America cleared for him above \$450,000, and his last trip is said to have increased his banking account to the tune of \$300,000.

The Kendals have also made large fortunes here, where they have always met with greater success than at home. By two trips taken in 1889 and 1890 they cleared \$600,000, which they have increased very considerably by doing the provinces in England.

J. L. Toole, in spite of his popularity in London, has never made any very big sums out of his metropolitan productions. In Australia and in the provinces he is more appreciated than in London, and he has had great financial prosperity. His Australian tour, made some six years ago, put some \$50,000 into his pocket, and his fortune is now said to exceed \$400,000.

George Conquest, whose right name is Oliver, inherited from his father \$350,000, which he is said to have doubled during the many years he has run the Surrey theater with such conspicuous success. His yearly pantomimes, although costing enormous sums to produce, have always added largely to his wealth.

Mrs. Sara Lane is probably the richest woman in the profession. Her productions at the Britannia theater, Hoxton, have ever met with success only equaled by her own enormous popularity at this seat of blood-and-thunder drama. Her theater, which is nightly filled from floor to roof by most enthusiastic audiences, only holds \$500, but in 52 years she has, by careful management and judicious catering, succeeded in accumulating a fortune of more than \$900,000.

Charles Wyndham has made a considerable fortune since he first took the Criterion theater 11 years ago. His productions have always been very successful, and his wealth is estimated at \$500,000.

Beerbohm Tree is another actor who has been enormously successful, but the exact amount of his fortune is not known. It is, however, acknowledged to be very large.

W. S. Penley has made a fortune out of "Charley's Aunt." Indeed, if reports are to be believed, the amount of the fortune exceeds \$1,000,000; and this is quite possible, considering the years this play has been running, not only in London, but all over the world. Edward Terry, whose successes in Australia have been much greater than his successes in England, is the lucky possessor of some \$200,000, a considerable portion of which was made out of "Sweet Lavender." Charles Warner is somewhat of a go-as-you-please gentleman, and contents himself with a fortune of approximately \$150,000; while Mrs. Langtry is said to be worth about \$1,000,000.—Hartford Times.

Alabama Steel.

All Alabama will rejoice when told that steel from Alabama iron can be made at a profit. The experiment has been tried several times and with results that have seemed encouraging, but the steel industry has not obtained that foothold in the state that was predicted and so earnestly hoped for. There was no question but that when steel came to be made here cheaply, a new industrial era would dawn for Alabama. We believe the time has at last arrived. The tests of the Hawkins process have been going on for some time in Birmingham, and have been noticed by us. Now, we are informed, the last doubt has been removed. Alabama iron will produce good steel.—Mobile Register.

Europe's Population.

Within the last decade the population of Europe has increased by about 30,000,000, of whom Russia contributed 12,519,000 and France only 67,000.

Twin Evils.

Misfortunes and imprudence are often twins.—Ram's Horn.

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SPELLING REFORM.

The Need There is of Simplifying English Orthography.

English spelling is remarkable for its indefinite variety. As long as "tisis" is spelled "phthisis" the voice of the spelling reformer should be heard in the land. Mr. Turner in the following incident, in view of our present method of spelling, was entirely consistent: Dobbs met his friend Turner on the train. They were both going to London and stopped at the same hotel. Turner registered his name:

"E. K. Phthologyrrrh."

Dobbs, noticing it, exclaimed: "Here, what are you assuming such a foreign outlandish name for? Are you in any trouble?"

"Not a bit of it," replied Turner, "and I am not assuming any foreign name."

"What kind of a name is that?" demanded Dobbs.

"That is my identical old name," persisted Turner, "and it is English, too—pronounced plainly, 'Turner.'"

"I can't see how you make 'Turner' out of those 13 letters; besides, what is your object in spelling that way?" asked Dobbs.

"Well, you see, nobody ever noticed my name on the register when I wrote it 'Turner,'" exclaimed the latter, "but since I commenced writing it 'Phthologyrrrh' I set them all guessing. They wonder what nation I am from; what my name is. I can now hear people talk about me all around. It is, as I said before, English spelling. 'Phth,' there is the sound of 't' in 'phthisis'; 'olo,' there is the 'ur' in 'colonel'; 'gn,' there is the sound of 'n' in 'gnat'; 'yrrh' is the sound of 'er' in 'myrrh.' Now, if that doesn't spell 'Turner,' what does it spell?"—London Tit-Bits.

Scientists Not Infallible.

Men are now living who heard the eminent scientist, Prof. Silliman, declare in a lecture at Yale college, after a careful mathematical calculation, that no boat could contain a sufficient amount of coal to propel it across the Atlantic ocean. It is not likely that he ever dreamed that ships would ever be constructed which could contain and consume nearly 2,000 tons on a single voyage.

Drifting.

No wind serves him who addresses his voyage to no certain port.—Montaigne.

To insult once signified to jump or dance on a dead body.

SAFETY APPLIANCE.

By Which Balloons May Be Controlled by the Aeronaut.

So many terrible disasters to aeronauts have from time to time been recorded that it is pleasant to learn that in the near future ballooning may be as safe as any other form of locomotion.

An Italian aeronaut, named Capazza, has invented two moon attachments, which are said to have fully realized the expectations formed of them. The one is an enormous parachute stowed over the balloon, and the other a folded inverted parachute hanging under the basket.

If the aeronaut finds that his balloon is rising too fast he opens the folded parachute, which immediately acts as a huge brake, and effectually retards progress. On the other hand, should the air vessel explode through passion, fire, or any other cause, the top parachute comes into play, and a descent may be made without the slightest inconvenience.

The antula is named from its abundance in the vicinity of Taranto.

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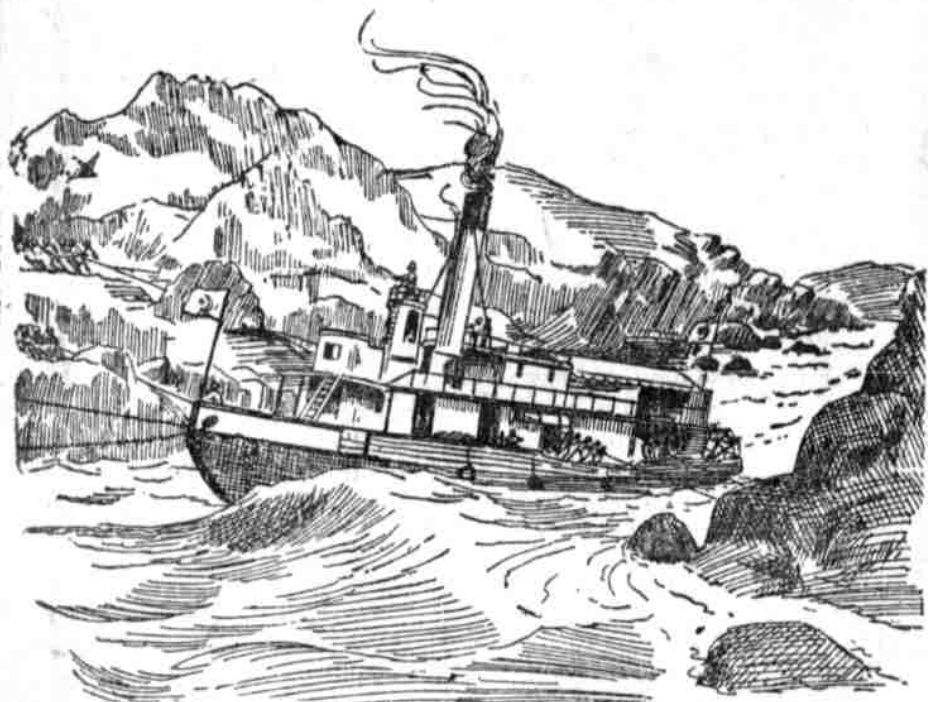
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HAULING A GUNBOAT UP THE SECOND CATARACT OF THE NILE.

ener, sir, of the Anglo-Egyptian army, to proceed up the Nile and subdue the Dervish borders of the Soudan the expedition was looked upon as fatuous and ill-timed. But Kitchener, with an army of 14,000 men, of whom but 1,200 were British soldiers, started on his difficult march with the determination to win or to die. He overcame all obstacles in his way, succeeded in having his frail gunboats carried over the dangerous cataracts of the Nile, and before the badly-disorganized Mahdists knew it had them at his mercy, captured Dongola, the key to the Soudan, and is now ready to advance upon Khartoum, the stronghold where the late Gen. Gordon was massacred by the original Mahdi. His Egyptian troops, who were ridiculed at the beginning of the campaign by press and public, proved faithful in every emergency and fought with the valor of heroes.

England's Magnificent Reward.

Lord Salisbury is without question one of the cleverest diplomats of his time. Instinctively he felt that the Turkish question would have to be settled before long; and he was anxious to place Great Britain in a position where it could dictate its own terms when the final division of the Ottoman realm should be determined by the powers. The Soudan expedition was one of the most wisely planned political moves of the century. Undertaken at a time when both Russia and France were straining every nerve to secure an advantage over Austria, Italy and Germany in the control of continental affairs, and were not prepared to offer serious objections, it was conducted in the name of Egypt and humanity. The khedive's troops were given all the glory of the enterprise, and had it been unfortunate theirs would have been all the blame. England purposely played a minor part, but it will reap all the benefits of the conquest. Egypt, although still recognizing the suzerainty of the sultan, has been under British control for years, and will fall, like a ripe apple, in the lap of England, when the dismemberment of Turkey shall be agreed upon. In that event Russia will receive Constantinople, it is true, but Great Britain will have not only Egypt, but the Soudan from Wady Halfa to Uganda, from the delta of the Nile to Victoria and Albert Nyanza, an empire so vast in extent and rich in

this discouraging news comes the report that Don Carlos is about to inaugurate another revolutionary movement in the provinces of Catalonia and Navarre. Although none of his adherents has taken the field as yet, several of them are embarrassing the government in the cortes.

Don Carlos, who styles himself "Duke of Madrid," is the nephew of Charles VI and the son of Don Juan, who succeeded Charles and married Archduchess Maria Theresa of Austria. The pretender was born in 1848. In 1867 he married Margaret de Bourbon, sister of the Comte de Chambord. A year later Juan abdicated in favor of his son, whose standard was raised in France by his partisans in 1872. In that year Carlos issued a proclamation to the people of Catalonia, Aragon and Valencia, urging them to come to his side, and in December his brother, Don Alfonso, took command of the Carlist bands in Catalonia. Carlos himself entered Spain in 1873, and for a year or more fierce war was waged. In 1876 the last stronghold of his party was taken. Carlos issued a manifesto from Paris, saying he would retire to stop bloodshed, but would appear again at the moment fixed for redemption. Carlos' first wife died in 1893, leaving her vast wealth in trust for her children and assigning only a small allowance to her husband, who had abused her on many occasions, and from whom she had lived apart the last years of her life. Pressed for money, the pretender looked around for a second wife, and found her in the person of Princess Marie Bertha de Rohan, the marriage taking place within a year of the first wife's death. To Princess Bertha the profligate Spaniard has proven a fairly good husband, and should he follow her advice he will resign his claims to the Spanish throne to his oldest son, Don Jayme, who is now in his 26th year, and is said to combine in his character all the cruelty and vanity of the Bourbons and all the egotism of the Hapsburgs. This young man, aside from laying claim to the Spanish succession, poses also as the pretender to the French throne, for by the death of his grandfather, the Comte de Chambord, he became the head of that branch of the Bourbons which descends in direct line from the second son of Louis XIV. The Orleans line, whose head is the Duc d'Orleans, descends from a brother of Louis XIV.

C. W. WEIPPERT.